

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the following comments and as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,061,056 to Menard et al. (herein "Menard").

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Menard, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

With respect to independent Claims 1, 3, and 17, it is initially noted that each of those claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein.

Specifically, Claim 1 is amended by the present response to clarify that the program feature data added to the multimedia information is "in units of partial information". The other independent Claims 3 and 17 are also similarly amended.

According to the above-noted claims, the multimedia information is divided into plural partial information and program feature data is added to multimedia information in units of the *partial information*, and *the* partial information that accords with user profile data is searched based on matching between the user profile data and the program feature data. With such an operation it is possible to appropriately select and provide only portions of a users actual interest from a number of multimedia information. That operation eliminates a disadvantage in the background art in which even a program that a user wants to watch only partially needs to be recorded or watched. See also the discussion in the present specification at page 25, line 19, to page 26, line 13, as a non-limiting example.

With respect to Claim 1, the outstanding Office Action cites the teachings in Menard at column 1, line 66, to column 2, line 19.² In that portion Menard discloses storing a program segment and program data stream associated therewith, see specifically column 2, lines 13-14. However, in Menard program feature data is not added to multimedia information in units of partial information of the multimedia information. Thus, Claim 1 distinguishes over the teachings in Menard.

With respect to Claim 3, the Office Action references Menard at column 3, lines 15-49, and column 6, lines 4-14.³ In that respect it is noted that Menard discloses at column 3, lines 15-49, storing a program segment and the program data stream associated therewith. At column 6, lines 4-14, Menard describes a closed caption text storage. However, in the teachings of Menard program feature data is not added to multimedia information in units of partial information of the multimedia information. In such ways, Claim 3 distinguishes over the teachings in Menard.

With respect to Claim 17, Claim 17 also distinguishes over the teachings of Menard for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to independent Claims 1 and 3.

With respect to independent Claim 19, the outstanding rejection cites the teachings in Menard at column 9, line 54, to column 10, line 16.⁴ At that portion Menard discloses a retrieval system. However, Menard does not disclose that an information describing method as recited in Claim 19 is utilized.

Specifically, Claim 19 recites an information describing method including classifying information items into plural groups of information items relating to personal information of

²Office Action of October 2, 2002, page 3, lines 11-15.

³Office Action of October 2, 2002, page 3, line 16, to page 4, line 4.

⁴Office Action of October 2, 2002, page 4, lines 5-9.

a user, some of the groups of information items including plural subgroups, and describing each information item in the group or the subgroup in an order according to a priority of the information item determined for each user.

In such ways, according to Claim 19 the items are arranged in the order of priority.⁵ A non-limiting example of that operation is also shown in steps S52 and S53 in Figure 20 of the present specification, which shows that the priority of a key word in a user profile data is raised if the profile data of the user in the user profile database 104 has a corresponding key word (item). If there are a plurality of items that cannot be displayed at once, only items having higher priorities are displayed at once. Thus, the above control of assigning of priorities is preferable.

Such features as noted above in Claim 19 also distinguish over the teachings in Menard. Therefore, independent Claim 19 also distinguishes over the teachings in Menard.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent Claims 1, 3, 17, and 19, and the claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over the teachings in Menard.

⁵See also the present specification at page 15, lines 24-27, as a non-limiting example.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) An information providing method comprising:

adding program feature data to multimedia information in units of partial information [parts] of the multimedia information to form a program database;

searching for the partial information which accords with user profile data from said multimedia information based on matching between the user profile data and the program feature data; and

providing the searched partial information to a user.

3. (Amended) An information providing apparatus comprising:

a first database configured to store multimedia information;

an analyze section configured to analyze said multimedia information stored in said first database in units of partial information of the multimedia information using at least one analysis method of moving image analysis, acoustic/speech analysis, and text analysis;

a second database configured to store program feature data which is obtained in units of the partial information [parts] of the multimedia information or program feature data which is externally inputted; and

a search engine configured to search for program feature data from said second database in accordance with user profile data, and select the partial information from said multimedia information stored in said first database in accordance with searched program feature data.

17. (Amended) An information reception apparatus connected to an information providing server having a database which stores multimedia information and program feature data which is an analysis result of at least one of moving image analysis, acoustic/speech analysis, and text analysis in units of partial information of the multimedia information or program feature data which is externally inputted, comprising:

a search engine configured to search for predetermined program feature data from said database and select the partial information from said multimedia information stored in said database in accordance with searched program feature data.--